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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

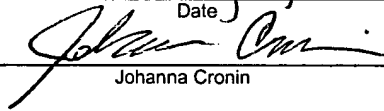
Serial No.: 10/696,958 )  
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Filed: October 30, 2003 )  
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Art Unit: 3677 )  
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Examiner: K. Mitchell )  
)  
For: SPLIT WELD CAGE NUT )  
ASSEMBLY )  
)  
Applicant: Clinch et al. )  
)  
Atty Docket No.: 140/40303A/954A )

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date of Deposit:

February 16, 2006

Date

  
Johanna Cronin

TRANSMITTAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
AFTER MAILING OF OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with Applicants' duty of candor under 37 CFR §1.56 and in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, Applicants submit the present Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of the listed foreign reference is included herewith. This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and the enclosures constitute a bona fide attempt to comply with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

Applicants first became aware of the references cited in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement through a European search report dated December 22, 2005, which was sent in connection with corresponding E.P.C. patent application Serial No. 03788235.4.

The Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement transmitted herewith is being filed after receipt of the first Office Action but before the Notice of Allowance and before the payment of the issue fee.


Each item of information contained in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

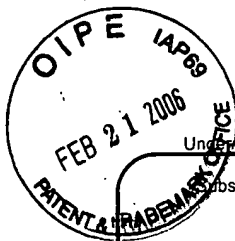
Applicants believe that a fee is not required for this submission. If the Commissioner believes that a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 20-1495.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97, the presentation of this information shall not be construed as a representation that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 exists, or as an admission that the information cited in this statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

Respectfully submitted,

Date : 2/16/06

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PTO/SB/08A (07-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/696,958
Filing Date	October 30, 2003
First Named Inventor	James P. Clinch
Art Unit	3677
Examiner Name	Katherine W. Mitchell
Attorney Docket Number	140/40303A/954A

Sheet 1 of 1

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 5,558,369	09-24-1996	Cornea et al.	
		US-			
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		GB687,110	02-04-1953			

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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